

REMARKS

Examination of the present divisional application filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is respectfully requested.

The present application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/865,704 (the “parent application”), filed on May 29, 2001. In the present preliminary amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to cross-reference the parent application.

The Examiner should note that the present application includes original claims 15 – 28. These claims correspond to the non-elected Group II claims that were withdrawn from consideration and later cancelled in response to the Examiner’s Restriction Requirement of January 14, 2002 in the parent application. Claims 1 – 14 were the Group I claims elected in response to the above Restriction Requirement in the parent application. Therefore, claims 1 – 14 have been cancelled in the present application.

Applicants have amended the application prior to preparation of the present preliminary amendment to correct other noticed non-substantive minor grammatical inconsistencies. Applicants assert that, because none of these changes adds new subject matter, the present application is entitled to the full priority benefits of the parent application.

Also, a replacement drawing sheet of an amended Fig. 3B including a “Prior Art” label is included with this preliminary amendment.

In view of the above remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Serial No. Unknown

Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to deposit account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Posz', is written over a horizontal line.

David G. Posz
Reg. No. 37,701

DGP/yf
Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
(703)707-9110 (phone)
Customer No. 23400

FIG. 3A

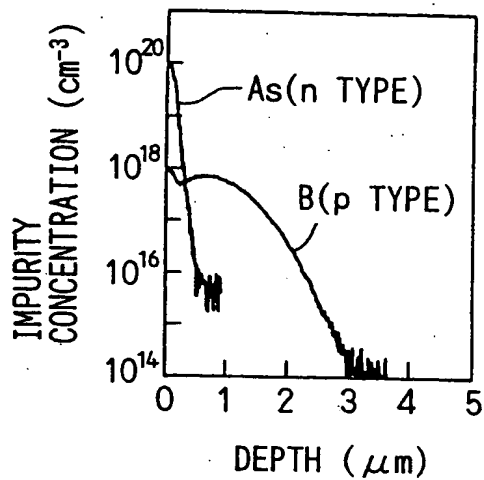


FIG. 3B

PRIOR ART

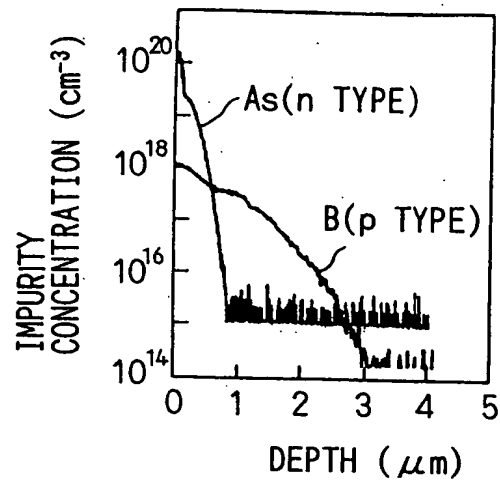


FIG. 4A

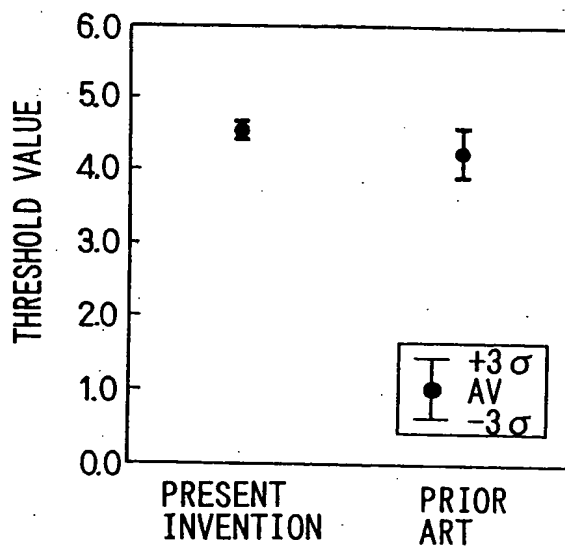


FIG. 4B

